

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

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R 311532 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, MOSCOW,
USUN AND TEL AVIV FROMPARIS MAY 30 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 15003

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR , XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. FRENCH TELEVISION VIEWERS ON SEVERAL RECENT EVENINGS HAVE
BEEN TREATED TO PROGRAMS FOCUSSED ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
ON MAY 24, INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN WAS
SHOWN AND ON MAY 28, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE EL- ERIAN
WAS INTERVIEWED BY BATTERY OF JOURNALISTS FROM PRINCIPAL FRENCH
PAPERS, INCLUDING LE MONDE AND FIGARO.

2. DAYAN' S BASIC POSITION WAS THAT AS LONG AS THERE WAS NO
AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS, ISRAELIS WOULD REST WHERE THEY ARE,
AND IN ANY CASE IN SHARM AL SHEIK AND ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, WITH
RESPECT TO PALESTINIAN DESIRE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, DAYAN WAS
EQUALLY BLUNT STATING THAT THIS DESIRE WAS NO MORE THAN A DREAM.
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PALESTINIANS WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT REALITIES AND RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR COUNTRY EXISTED NO LONGER.

3. IN CONTRAST, IN HALTING FRENCH AND IN FACE OF RELENTLESS AND FREQUENTLY HOSTILE QUESTIONS, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HAD ONLY ONE THEME. EGYPT WANTS PEACE, AND THAT PEACE MUST BE BASED ON EXISTING UN RESOLUTIONS INCLUDING 242. EGYPT, HE STRESSED, HAD DONE ALL IT COULD TO MAKE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION POSSIBLE. THE UNITED NATIONS HAD A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIDDLE EAST AND IT WAS UP TO IT TO DEFINE MECHANISMS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BY INSISTING, IN RESPONSE TO EVERY QUESTION, ON IMPORTANCE OF UN, EL- ERIAN MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPTIAN RESORT TO FORCE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE NOT LIKELY.

4. TWO OTHER INTERESTING ELEMENTS OF DEBATE WERE AMBASSADOR EL- ERIAN' S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT EGYPT DID NOT CONSIDER GAZA EGYPTIAN TERRITORY AND REMARK OF " SURPRISE" PARTICIPANT JACQUES SOUSTELLE WHO STRESSED THAT ISRAEL MAKE NO CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER SINAI. DESPITE REPEATED QUESTIONS ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, EL- ERIAN SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS AND SEEMED ABOVE ALL PREOCCUPIED BY NEED TO GET BACK TERRITORIES BELONGING TO EGYPT. DECONTROL 12/31/73. STONE

UNQUOTE RUSH

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